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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,256	10/20/2003	John P. Holt	RAR273.07	3434

7590

12/27/2004

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EXAMINER

SICONOLFI, ROBERT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,256

Applicant(s)

HOLT ET AL.

Examiner

Robert A. Siconolfi

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[Handwritten signature]

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-22 and 25-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 23 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040928.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Information Disclosure Statement filed on 9/28/04 has been received.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, and 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann et al in view of Cole (U. S. Patent no. 6,050,116).

Mann et al discloses: brake lock device 68, door lock device 18 (see also column 7 line 9), control unit 16, control mechanism 12,14

Mann et al does not disclose the details of the door lock device. Cole teaches a door lock device mounted on the interior of the trailer with a locking member 316 slidably received in a receptor (hole)111. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the door lock device of Cole in the system of Mann et al as it provides a robust locking device that is easily mounted in the trailer of a vehicle without requiring significant modification.

Regarding claim 16, the examiner takes official notice the electromechanical actuators are well known and it would have been obvious to use an electromechanical actuator in the device of Mann, as modified, as electrical lines are more robust and easier to install than pressure lines.

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Regarding claims 17 and 18, see Mann alarm control means 48 with reed switch (relay), column 4 line 66 – column 5 line 4

4. Claims 2, 3, 21, 22, 27-31, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann, as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kee et al (U. S. Patent no. 6,33,534).

Mann, as modified, is relied upon as above. Mann, as modified, does not disclose opening the valve to vent the air pressure to lock the brakes. Mann, as modified, discloses closing a valve to lock the brakes. Kee et al teaches opening a valve to vent the air pressure to lock the brakes (see valve 17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to open a valve to vent the air pressure to lock the brakes as taught by Kee et al in the system of Mann, as modified, in order to reduce the number of steps to secure the trailer. There is no need to separately set the parking brakes (see Kee et al column 7 line 57-66)

Regarding claim 29 and 33, the examiner takes official notice the electromechanical actuators are well known and it would have been obvious to use an electromechanical actuator in the device of Mann, as modified, as electrical lines are more robust and easier to install than pressure lines.

Regarding claims 30 and 34, see Mann alarm control means 48 with reed switch (relay), column 4 line 66 – column 5 line 4

5. Claims 6, 7, 25, 26, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann, as modified, as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Mor et al (U. S. Patent no. 5,378,929).

Mann, as modified, is relied upon as above. Mann, as modified, does not disclose the use of pressure sensor to measure the pressure in the line and control the actuation of the valve. Mor et al teaches the use of pressure sensor to measure the pressure in the line and control the actuation of the valve (See figure pressure 3 sensor 570). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pressure sensor to measure the pressure in the line and control the actuation of the valve as taught by Mor et al in the system of Mann, as modified, in order to prevent the accidental actuation of the control while the vehicle is moving.

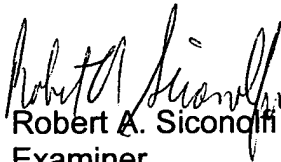
6. Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A. Siconolfi whose telephone number is 703-305-0580. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10 am-3 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robert A. Siconolfi
Examiner
Art Unit 3683
12/13/04

RS